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INTRODUCTORY

Mr. A. C. Flummerfelt of Victoria, offered a prize for an essay treating upon the following subjects :

1st.—Is British Columbia as rich, potentially, as the other provinces of the Dominion ?

2nd.—If so, are we sharing rateably in the general prosperity of Canada ?

3rd.—If not, why not, and what is requisite to bring about the desired condition ?

4th.—Does the difficulty lie in the lack of manufacturing, transportation facilities, population, labor, available capital or in ourselves ?

5th.—What steps should be taken to insure the permanent well being of every man and woman in British Columbia ?

Between thirty and forty competitors wrote answers. The committee appointed to decide was composed of Mr. C. H. Lugin, editor of the *Colonist*, Mr. Robert Dunn, editor of the *Times*, and Mr. S. J. Pitts, a retired merchant, formerly Chairman of the Board of Trade. These reported that "the essay signed 'Raglan' embodied the most thoughtful and instructive review of the questions and should be awarded the prize."

The writer was ex-Lieutenant-Governor C. H. Mackintosh. The prize money, \$50.00, was handed over by Mr. Mackintosh to Dr. Fagan, for the benefit of the Tuberculosis Institute.

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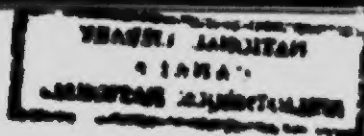
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Potential Riches of British Columbia

1. Is British Columbia as Rich Potentially as the Other Provinces of the Dominion?

The suggestion of an enquiry into the potential resources of British Columbia is timely, comprehensive and far-visioned; of vital interest alike to those who are toiling within and thousands over seas, anxious for a British territory, where the surplus brawn and energy of the Old World may be utilized.

Systematised stock-taking is an inflexible rule in commercial institutions. It applies as well to national concerns. This province need have no misgivings as to the result, for sombre experiences and stern rebuffs of the past, were not without chastening influences upon those earlier pioneers, who bequeathed the hall mark of lusty manhood to the present generation.

The following brief epitome of potential factors, contributing to the present growth and sponsors for the future advancement of British Columbia, is necessary for an intelligent discussion of the subject:

RIVERS: Fraser, Thompson, Columbia, Kootenay, Peace, Stikine, Skeena, natural arteries of communication between the interior, the great lakes and the Pacific ocean. In addition, water power sufficient to operate the spindles of the world.

LAKES: Covering an area of 1,560,830 acres. In the south, Kootenay, Arrow (lower and upper), Okanagan, Shuswap, Harrison, Slocan, Trout; in the north, Quesnel; bodies of water capable of bearing upon their bosoms the mercantile marine of an empire.

FORESTS: An area of 182,750,000 acres, three times the forest acreage of Japan and New Zealand and within a fraction of the acreage of India, Norway and Sweden, the products in active demand throughout the east, the

continent of Europe, Australia, Africa, Japan, China, Peru, Mexico, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

LUMBER AND PULP MILLS: One hundred and thirty saw mills, with a capacity closely approximating 520,000,000 feet a year. A number of pulp mills already contracted for and in course of construction, the product of which will find ready markets. Great Britain and the United States, it is estimated, will require 1,000,000 tons of pulp wood annually, to supply which will necessitate the cutting of over 100,000 acres of spruce. Certain classes of this timber reproduce themselves every thirty years; still, well and carefully conceived forestry preservation and reproduction laws should be placed upon the statutes.

MINERAL PRODUCTS: In 1905 the tonnage of ore throughout this province was eighty-five per cent. greater than in 1901. Last year (1906) the mineral output was by close approximation: placer gold, \$920,000; lode gold, 224,000 ounces; silver, 3,400,000 ounces; copper, 43,000,000 pounds; lead, 52,000,000 pounds. According to the Geological Survey Summary (Dominion) British Columbia's mineral product, excepting nickel and coal (the former found in Ontario), in 1905 exceeded the combined output of all other provinces. The figures stood: British Columbia, \$22,461,325; other provinces, including coal and nickel, \$24,125,297. The Boundary country (1906) produced an ore tonnage exceeding 32,000,000. When Lardeau, Kettle River district, Big Bend and the North, are able to transport ores, the tonnage will undoubtedly increase immensely. Nor must it be forgotten that fully 300,000 square miles of mineral bearing country still awaits exploration.

SMELTING: There are now eleven smelters and one refinery in operation with a capacity of nearly 8,000 tons per day; several are being enlarged. There are also two zinc plants in operation. These will be increased should the United States remove the zinc duty.

COAL AND COKE: Every year the output of coal and operations of ovens increase; coal revenue rapidly approaching \$5,000,000 per annum and coke \$1,750,000. Last year (1906) the coal tonnage (long tons) was 1,600,000; coke (long tons), 200,000 tons.

FISHERIES: In 1904 the salmon pack numbered 465,894 cases, and in 1905, 1,167,460 cases.

FRUIT GROWING

Other industries: Small fruit and orchard culture have already made the province famous, horticulture bidding fair to expand beyond the most sanguine

anticipation. Exhibits have year after year been awarded medals and high honors in Great Britain. Throughout, land has quadrupled in value. Grain growing, dairying, poultry, eggs, bacon, cattle raising, horse breeding and mixed farming generally are making steady advances. The population has increased from 19,277 in 1872 to 220,000 in 1906; the revenue is steadily increasing, while permanent settlers are coming into the country in noticeable numbers.

HARBORS.

These are no chimerical estimates; they point with the undeviating fidelity of a compass, to vast fields about to be developed, harvests yet to be reaped. With extensive harbors, Port Simpson, Prince Rupert, Vancouver, Bute Inlet, Victoria, Esquimalt, Barclay and Quatsino Sounds, Port Renfrew, Port Hardy, with one transcontinental railway system in operation and three others seeking coast termini, it is but reasonable to believe that British Columbia is not only potentially rich but bids fair to be the richest of the confederated provinces.

FINANCIAL FACTS AND FIGURES.

2. *Is British Columbia sharing rateably with the general prosperity of the country?*

This question must be settled by official figures.

Bank clearings: The cities of Vancouver and Victoria have both largely increased bank clearings, as shown by the following comparison for twelve months during consecutive years:

Vancouver: 1903, \$68,783,259; 1904, \$74,640,590; 1905, \$88,460,391; 1906, \$132,606,358.

Victoria: 1903, \$30,817,928; 1904, \$32,993,113; 1905, \$36,890,194; 1906, \$45,615,615.

For the year ending March 31, 1905-06, Vancouver clearing houses returned \$95,744,201, \$6,000,000 more than Halifax, N.S., \$20,000,000 excess of Hamilton, Ont., and \$43,000,000 more than St. John, N.B. As regards its population Victoria held its own with London, Ont., and several other eastern cities, her bank clearings increasing in three years by the sum of \$14,797,687, while Vancouver's increased from \$68,783,259 in 1903 to \$132,606,358 for the year 1906.

THE PROVINCIAL SURPLUS

Provincial revenue and expenditure: It will be remembered that for years the Provincial Treasurer was obliged to announce an annual deficit of

\$900,000. To-day the position is reversed, the revenue for 1905-6 amounting to \$3,044,442.89 and expenditures to \$2,677,648.72, a surplus of \$366,793.77.

An unprejudiced view of bank clearings and revenue and expenditure justifies the statement that, compared with other provinces, British Columbia, from the standpoint of wealth and domestic progress, is rateably sharing—more than sharing—in the general prosperity of Canada.

WEALTH IN NATURAL PRODUCTS

Productive capabilities: No more suggestive, certainly no more convincing figures could be offered than those illustrative of the province's richness in natural products. This is the record for the past year (1906):

(1) Mines, \$26,500,000; (2) agriculture, \$6,500,000; (3) fisheries, \$9,000,000; (4) lumber, \$9,500,000; (5) butter and dairy, \$1,000,000; (6) hog products, \$1,000,000; (7) fruit crops, \$1,250,000—making a total of \$54,750,000. A probable increase of two million dollars will be shown when official statements are received. What does this indicate? Local wealth, assets sure to increase annually. Allowing an adult male population of 55,000 (one out of every four persons) the astonishing yet gratifying fact remains, that 55,000 male adults produce industrial and agricultural wealth to the extent of \$1,000 per capita. Can any other province in the Dominion make a similar showing?

EXPANSION OF MANUFACTURES

A comparative statement of the manufactures of British Columbia for the calendar years 1900 and 1905 (the latest official figures procurable), together with the capital employed, salaries, wages, and value of products, is certainly interesting, proving as it does immense expansion during the past five years.

	1900	1905
Capital.....	\$22,901,892	\$51,762,557
Salaries and wages	5,456,538	11,051,477
Value of products	19,445,778	37,465,963

Showing the following increase for the calendar year 1905, as compared with 1900:

Capital (increase) \$28,860,665; salary and wages (increase) \$5,594,939; value of products \$18,020,185.

Capital invested increasing over one hundred and fifty per cent, and wages and value of products fully one hundred per cent.

A business firm would be amazed should stock-taking yield such results, but how much more gratifying to know that provincial revenue, banking returns, postal business and Government postal, savings and chartered banks' returns make a similarly favorable showing so far as deposits are concerned.

CLASSIFIED INDUSTRIES

The annexed tables prove conclusively that marvellous industrial expansion took place between 1900 and 1905.

	1900	1905
Butter and cheese	\$ 105,670	\$ 272,676
Fish (preserved)	2,850,554	4,342,674
Flouring and Grist products	349,428	481,300
Foundry products	356,641	624,268
Log products	3,985,177	10,944,229
Lumber products	470,293	897,256
Plumbing and tinsmithing	180,275	551,900
Smelting	4,531,179	10,073,189
Sundry products	3,262,764	5,558,608

PROGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The writer has to thank Mr. Archibald Blue, the able Dominion statistician at Ottawa, for enabling him to produce a comparative statement of the manufacturing industries of British Columbia for the calendar years 1900 and 1905 showing capital employed, salaries and wages paid, and value of products by kinds of industries. This is published for the first time and should prove valuable for reference:

Name or Kind of Industry—	1900 Capital	Salaries and Wages	Value of products
Aerated and mineral waters	\$70,292	\$24,240	\$62,247
Boilers and engines	739,200	181,400	367,025
Boots and Shoes	33,971	19,740	67,645
Bread, biscuits and confectionery	189,719	89,505	298,510
Brick, tile and pottery	269,800	65,661	158,520
Butter and cheese	15,807	6,787	105,600
Carrriages and wagons	87,300	43,460	89,955
Clothing, men's	187,582	193,008	435,435
Clothing, women's	53,680	33,150	96,250
Fish, preserved	4,358,072	546,789	2,850,554
Flouring and grist mill products	270,260	41,904	349,428
Foundry and machineshop products	445,452	167,748	856,641
Furniture and upholstered goods	463,125	60,910	119,100
Gas, lighting and heating	524,500	27,108	87,792
Harness and saddlery	60,471	25,720	87,300
Jewelry and repairs	20,250	12,610	19,086
Lime	7,180	5,697	8,850
Liquors and malt	874,369	143,448	580,244
Log products	6,132,928	1,644,725	3,985,177
Lumber products	299,134	172,502	470,293
Monuments and tombstones	20,719	18,677	32,854
Oils	146,983	9,650	27,190
Plumbing and tinsmithing	214,826	57,407	180,275
Printing and publishing	454,801	234,406	445,158
Ship and ship repairs	68,375	45,310	106,170
Smelting	1,744,000	898,779	4,531,179
Tobacco, cigars and cigarettes	161,093	109,906	265,497
All other industries	4,959,047	531,751	3,263,764
Totals	\$22,901,892	\$5,456,538	\$19,447,778

POTENTIAL RICHES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Name or Kind of Industry—	1905 Capital	Salaries and Wages	Value of products
Aerated and mineral waters	\$128,286	\$32,941	\$79,877
Awnings, tents and sails	19,000	6,850	25,800
Blacksmithing	28,700	12,398	24,000
Boilers and engines	630,522	157,680	360,320
Boats and canoes	22,300	4,925	8,250
Boots and shoes	71,000	24,621	79,000
Boxes, wooden	60,340	21,156	50,908
Bread, biscuits and confectionery	284,438	94,800	457,790
Brick, tile and pottery	101,370	71,159	170,008
Butter and cheese	71,691	20,955	272,676
Carriages and wagons	59,700	31,386	61,600
Clothing, men's	109,132	114,045	243,551
Clothing, women's	76,100	43,236	105,700
Electric light and power	1,948,026	49,326	128,646
Fish, preserved	4,840,955	1,792,643	4,342,674
Flour and grist mill products	304,800	38,750	481,300
Foundry and machine shop products	501,570	194,792	624,268
Furniture and upholstered goods	100,450	37,292	92,676
Gas, lighting and heating	956,942	46,215	120,363
Harness and saddlery	111,000	35,854	102,900
Liquors, malt	975,853	98,500	426,496
Log products	15,727,389	4,486,653	10,945,229
Lumber products	822,057	338,964	897,257
Monuments and tombstones	44,234	12,295	38,948
Oils	155,563	17,750	39,080
Plumbing and tinmithing	335,232	168,165	551,990
Printing and bookbinding	64,845	28,074	55,500
Printing and publishing	516,382	270,945	552,573
Ships and ship repairs	86,050	36,100	110,890
Smelting	18,447,877	1,765,667	10,073,189
Tobacco, cigars and cigarettes	182,000	158,522	385,901
All other industries	3,983,763	839,070	5,558,608
Totals	\$51,762,557	\$11,051,477	\$37,465,963

PROGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL WORK

All other industries in 1900 comprised : 1 awnings, tents and sails ; 2 blacksmithing ; 2 boats and canoes ; 1 boxes, wooden ; 2 brooms and brushes ; 2 car repairs ; 1 coffees and spices ; 1 coke ; 1 drugs ; 1 electrical apparatus and supplies ; 2 electric light and power ; 1 fruit and vegetable canning ; 2 furnishing goods, men's ; 1 glass ; 1 leather, tanned curried and finished ; 2 mattresses and spring beds ; 1 opium ; 1 paints and varnishes ; 1 printing and bookbinding ; 1 rice cleaning and polishing ; 2 soap ; 1 sugar refining ; 1 vinegar and pickles.

All other industries in 1905 comprised : 1 bicycle repairs ; 1 brooms and brushes ; 2 car repairs ; 1 clothing, men's (factory) ; 2 coffees and spices ; 2 coke ; 1 drugs ; 2 dyeing and cleaning, 1 hairwork ; 1 hats, caps and furs ; 1 ice ; 2 jewelry and repairs ; 1 leather, tanned, curried and finished ; 2 lime ; 2 paints and varnishes ; 1 rice cleaning and polishing ; 1 roofing and roofing materials ; 1 rubber and elastic goods ; 1 slaughtering, not included meat packing ; 1 stone, cut ; 1 sugar refining ; 1 vinegar and pickles.

Total establishments in 1900-1.....	392
Total persons employed in 1900-1.....	11,453
Total establishments in 1905.....	450
Total persons employed in 1905.....	22,652

It would be safe to say that during the past two years, the mining, fishing, lumber and smelting industries have increased, both in capital and output, at least 15 per cent. This being so, any intelligent observer would be in a position to cast the horoscope of years to come. There are openings for smaller classes of manufacture—clothing, furniture, boats, boots and shoes, tents, wooden boxes, brick, tile and pottery, harness, saddlery, and a score of other lines requiring some capital and industry as well, to supply and occupy local market; too many products being sent from the United States, official reports at Washington being that Americans are now able to control the coast markets. British Columbia possesses almost every resource requisite for all classes of manufactures; a high tariff across the border certainly hampers export trade, but within her own boundaries and within Canada itself are markets open for profitable business.

WHAT WILL BE.

With unlimited coal and vast deposits of iron, gigantic industries must eventually be established in various parts of this Province, and the day is not far distant which will witness the construction of not only every kind of mining machinery, but iron and steel ships, the business expanding with the increase of trade connections, volume of population, and methods of rapid transport.

OTHER INDUSTRIES.

For some time specialists have been experimenting upon the cultivation of oysters, an industry that gives promise of being successful in every way. Then, again, the manufacture of fire brick, quarrying of the vast sandstone deposits in various districts, will undoubtedly prove of permanent benefit to British Columbia.

WHAT FURTHER COMPARISONS PROVE

Many may be inclined to question the correctness of the above statements. If so, the most sceptical would be convinced by a careful examination of the tabulated figures and diagrams contained in the last census. These prove beyond cavil, that notwithstanding the fact that British Columbia has been unjustly treated, and at times unfairly handicapped, her population, per capita, is richer than those of the other provinces. Here is the proof:

1. Value of Land and Houses, per Occupant.

British Columbia, \$5,484; Manitoba, \$4,703; Territories, \$3,350; Ontario, \$4,963; other provinces (average) \$2,000.

2. Production per Farm.

British Columbia, \$1,047; Territories, \$562; Manitoba, \$735; Ontario, \$1,040; Quebec, \$633; other provinces (average) \$400.

In the following, for the purpose of brevity, only the highest and lowest figures are given :

3. Production per Lot.

British Columbia, \$555; Territories, \$2,061; Ontario, \$1,105.

4. Income from Mines, Forests, Farms and Factories, per Head.

British Columbia, \$290; Ontario, \$219; Prince Edward Island, \$62.

5. Fisheries, per Head.

British Columbia, \$25.45; Nova Scotia, \$15.82; Ontario, \$.51.

6. Production of Mines per Head.

British Columbia, \$82.13; Nova Scotia, \$19.70; Prince Edward Isl'd, .15.

7. Forests of Canada, per Head.

British Columbia, \$15.00; Ontario, \$9.90; Prince Edward Island, 2.77.

8. Production of Factories, per Head.

British Columbia, \$135.50; Ontario, 130.92; Territories, 10.95.

Since the census enumeration was made, British Columbia has not been marking time, but marching steadily toward the goal of success. Even allowing for many drawbacks and disadvantages, this province is more than holding her own.

3. *If not, why not? What is requisite to bring about the desired condition? Does this difficulty lie in the lack of manufactures, transportation facilities, population, labor, available capital—or in ourselves?*

The province is certainly sharing rateably in the general prosperity; still, in many branches the profit-yielding results are not satisfactory. Candidly speaking, British Columbia has carried weights; in short, been handicapped by physical characteristics handicapped by indifference upon the part of Eastern pessimists, who suffered through many years of stagnation in Manitoba and the then Northwest Territories. It was not until the forests and mines of

this section attracted worldwide attention, and Yukon poured golden floods into the national exchequer, that British Columbia forced its way to the front. Consequent upon rapid progress, immense expenditures, without adequate return in the shape of revenue, became necessary. To be sure, the topographical configuration of the country meant mineral wealth; on the other hand, local improvements, domestic legislation, education, administration of justice, construction of roads and trails, together with other necessary public works, strained every fibre of the province's financial autonomy. Take, by way of illustration, the following comparative statements:

Justice, Per Head.

British Columbia, \$5.66; Ontario, .20; Quebec, .33; New Brunswick, .55; Nova Scotia, .16.

Public Works, Per Head.

British Columbia, \$2.44; Ontario, .12; Quebec, .65; New Brunswick, .60; Nova Scotia, .34.

Education, Per Head.

British Columbia, \$5.66; Quebec, 1.91; New Brunswick, 1.92; Nova Scotia, 1.81.

Despite these drawbacks, there is no province in Canada where the per capita cost of education, administration of justice, construction of trails and works, produces more beneficial results.

NON-PARTISAN ISSUE

These estimates could be continued throughout the catalogue of provincial expenditures. To improve this condition, the federal authorities should deal justly in the premises, remembering what was done for Nova Scotia and other provinces, not forgetting the millions of dollars returned to the province of Quebec for its expenditure upon the North Shore Railway, from Montreal to Ottawa. The issue should be neither partisan nor sectional. A spirit of broad statesmanship should prevail. Once this policy is adopted, the interior of the province opened, feeders to main railway lines constructed, and expansion of transport facilities follow, a broad field for manufacturers and retention of local capital will be created. Exorbitant transport rates are undoubtedly standing menaces to any section far removed from commercial centres, and it behooves both the Legislature and the people to resist, in every legitimate way, discrimination or favoritism on the part of those who control railway and express rates. No discrimination should be countenanced, no privileges

vouchsafed, if even remotely trenching upon present or future commercial interests. The question of population is another important factor. Here both Government and people may exercise wise discretion, for it must not be imagined that any spirit of philanthropy—much less patriotism—will suggest eastern sympathy for the province. This is emphasized by a recent cable from London, in a Montreal newspaper, which announces, "A special feature of this year's plans is the greater attention paid to the eastern provinces." Being so, the people themselves will be blamable unless wise remedial measures are adopted tending to induce the best class of settlers to seek homes in British Columbia. We want manufactures of a diversified character; we want population, and in order to round off the policy, we want the people's earnings and the profits of industrial concerns, kept within our own boundaries. Why should \$2,000,000 go abroad for dairy products, foreign fruits, poultry and agricultural supplies? Why should \$5,000,000 for similar necessities go east, and, out of a total expenditure of \$12,000,000 annually, \$7,000,000 go abroad? In some cases, this may have been unavoidable, and decreases are observable; on the other hand, why should the consumers of British Columbia annually pay import duties upon domestic products, in excess of Manitoba, including Winnipeg and Brandon; as much as Nova Scotia and more than the combined provinces of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Yukon? Where capital has been profitably invested, more will come, the best guarantee being that this province is essentially enriched by immense areas of resources not found elsewhere.

SCARCITY OF LABOR

A vital issue affecting British Columbia is scarcity of labor. There are two phases of this question, two elements entering into its discussion. For years, in fact since 1901, those far removed and having interests elsewhere, breathed tales of woe, foretold cataclysms of disaster, consequent upon local labor troubles: forgetting that throughout the world similar conditions had prevailed at various times. The best proof of exaggeration of these predictions is British Columbia's continued prosperity. Labor will gravitate towards the best market, and fairly remunerated workmen, progressive and intelligent, are the best indication of legitimate industrial wealth. Hence, no public man could render a greater service to the State than he who steadfastly refuses to fan the flames of uncivilized animosity between employer and employee. Both are intent upon making money. One sells his wares at the highest possible price, the other his physical and mechanical attainments. It must not be forgotten that even the Chinese knew enough to demand higher wages when the restriction tax was increased. How much more advantageous then to a province, the

fact that every workman is a permanent settler, and every dollar he earns is invested in the country in which he lives. At the present time, a sum exceeding \$3,000,000 per annum, is remitted to alien countries by those who have nothing in common with our institutions, notwithstanding the fact that they are industrious and law-abiding citizens. Thousands of people do not care for a country where Mongolians are employed; many white women, adapted to domestic service, not unnaturally object to working with them. Hence, failing to induce our brethren in the United Kingdom or descendants of Britishers and Canadians, to return from the United States, the next best thing would be to secure Galicians, Scandinavians and the class of foreigners who as settlers have already proved progressive, industrious, honest and law-abiding.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE

4. What steps should be taken to secure the permanent well-being of every man and woman in British Columbia?

1. Oneness of sentiment should be encouraged; a community of interests fostered between Island and Mainland, and sectional jealousy should be eschewed by all having the future of the Province at heart.

2. The youth of the Province should be thoroughly schooled in its geographical and historical conditions, its possibilities and resources.

3. Clean politics, temperance, respect for the privileges, even the prejudices of all classes forming our population, should become fundamental principles in every walk of life.

4. A Provincial Board of Trade should be formed, and every encouragement offered by the Government.

5. A carefully thought out immigration policy, under which old settlers and men of experience could be induced to visit neighborhoods best known to them, speaking with authority in the countries whence they came to become Canadian settlers.

6. Cheap transportation by land and water; all legislation to contain checks and safeguards against favoritism in rates, discriminating between provinces or provincial points.

7. A provincial irrigation system.

8. Provincial owned short railways or tramlines, opening interior districts and connecting with steamships or trunk lines.

9. Speedy registration of land titles.

10. A labor and statistical bureau, whose officials would investigate the labor market at home and abroad and endeavour to maintain conciliatory methods between the employer and employee.

11. Liberal land regulations and a carefully made survey of cultivable lands for settlement throughout the province.

12. No monopolies and no charters for great industrial works or railways, without provision being made for the protection of the public.

13. Every effort should be put forth to increase trade between sections, and so far as possible, to keep local money in local channels.

More, while British Columbians are debarred from the American lumber market, unceasing agitation should be kept up against the admission of rough lumber across our borders. When the American local market is depressed, our lumbermen are forced to compete with the American output to the extent of \$3,000,000 per annum. That money should be kept in the province.

14. Permanent settlers, unremitting efforts to populate the farming, cattle raising, breeding and ranching districts, should be made. One satisfied settler from abroad is advance agent for hundreds who will follow him

THE PERIOD OF DOUBT PASSED

Announcements made by prominent railway representatives, that millions of dollars are to be expended during the ensuing two years, in development and construction, proves conclusively that this province has passed the period of puerile doubt and sceptical criticism. The people want practical, progressive and stable legislation. They are ready to devote all the strength and intelligence vouchsafed them by Providence, in furthering the permanent well-being of British Columbia, and to unite in maintaining one law, one flag, one constitutional destiny.

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The wave of prosperity which has for some time enriched the east may reasonably be deemed to have reached Victoria. It has in fact visited the whole of Vancouver Island, and the effect has been very noticeable. Industries hitherto undreamed of have sprung into existence and are yielding handsome dividends; mines which have been lying dormant for years are now lives of activity; logging camps have been established in conjunction with sawmills working up to the limit of their capacity all along the west and east coasts; and the merchants, wholesale and retail, of Victoria, Nanaimo, Ladysmith and other centres are transacting a larger volume of business than ever before. Local business men are unanimous in the assertion that there has been a remarkable increase in the commerce of the city during the past few months over the same period last year. And they are equally unanimous in expressing the

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opinion that the outlook is sufficiently roseate to warrant the belief that the prosperity now being experienced will increase with the lapse of time. In short, they are firmly convinced that Victoria, and Vancouver Island generally, are on the eve of a remarkable advance along all lines, an era which will witness the development of natural resources and the consequent acceleration of the settlement of the country.

INCREASE OVER MILLION.

The Colonist recently pointed out that it was only necessary to glance at the totals of the Victoria clearing house to realize the change. For the week ending April 30 the figure quoted is \$944,475. To those who have followed these quotations, that would be sufficient to prove the correctness of the foregoing statements. But here is the appended comparative statement: For the month of April, 1907, \$4,554,411; for the same month, 1906, \$3,272,726, a difference in favor of the month just closed of \$1,281,685. This advance has not been equaled since 1902, as may be seen by the totals subjoined: April, 1905, \$2,328,914; April 1904, \$2,508,324; April, 1903, \$1,926,468; April, 1902, \$2,228,313. Thus it is quite apparent that the past month has been a record breaker in the amount of banking business which has been transacted locally, a fact which is always accepted as a true criterion of the prosperity

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or otherwise of any community. As it is sometimes affirmed that these figures cannot be relied on because in some months exceptionally large sums pass through the clearing house, a Colonist reporter yesterday interviewed one of the officials of the Bank of Commerce. He stated that the figures mentioned substantially were an index of the increase in the general volume of business. Therefore it is impossible in any manner whatsoever to avoid the conclusion that the long-looked-for "wave of prosperity" has at last reached British Columbia's capital, markedly stimulating the wheels of commerce, which have been allowed—perhaps only to a slight extent—to rust in past years.

IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS.

Not only is the improved condition demonstrated by the figures which have been quoted. It is acknowledged by practically all the merchants of the city. Simon Leiser, of Victoria, in response to a request, averred that the business of the firm of which he is in control showed an increase, generally speaking, of 25 per cent. over that of the same period last year. Comparing the month of April with that of the preceding year, he said that the advance amounted to something like 35 per cent. All local merchants spoken to announced that their experience had been similar to that

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outlined by Mr. Leiser. They asserted that anyone occupied in commercial pursuits in Victoria at present who could not realize handsome profits "had only himself to blame."

"What is the reason for the improvement?" was asked Mr. Leiser.

"That would be hard to say in a few words," was the answer, "but I'll tell you I think it can only be attributed to the activity in connection with all industries which prevails now throughout Vancouver Island." He went on to enumerate. He mentioned the mines. A few years ago those which were in operation employed only half the men actually required, and made occasional shipments. Now all were exceedingly active, having complete staffs and sending their ore to the smelters for treatment at regular intervals. That meant, of course, that the smelters were kept busy, which was especially the case with that situated at Crofton. Then there was the exploitation of the timber resources of the Island.

CAPITAL COMING IN.

Capital was coming in from all parts of America for investment in that industry. Everybody wanted Vancouver Island timber, and the lands and works department was being flooded with applications. The result was that the west and east coal-

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were dotted with logging camps, employing large forces of men; while sawmills, almost equal in number, were in operation converting the raw product into the market-
able article. In addition there were the whaling stations. These also were engaging
many laborers, were meeting with signal success and were sending oil in large quan-
tities to all parts of the world. Coming home to Victoria, Mr. Leiser mentioned the
movement in real estate. The constant turning over of property undoubtedly was
having the effect of setting money in circulation. In a word, outsiders with capital
were beginning to realize the wealth of the Island; its resources were being developed
to a greater extent than heretofore, and very naturally the whole country was ex-
periencing unprecedented prosperity.

VICTORIA AS A RESIDENTIAL CITY.

So much for the practical industries and commercial expansion of Victoria and
Vancouver Island generally. The advantages of the Capital of this Province, as a
residential centre, cannot be over-estimated. There is no time of the year when it is
not a pleasure to visit Victoria. In winter one does not look for summer weather,
but the climate at this season is by a long way the mildest in Canada and very similar
to that of the winter resorts in the South of England. The almost total absence of
snow and severe frosts (these being the exception) has given Victoria the title of the
Evergreen City of Canada.

From July 1st to September 15th is the height of the Tourist season, and it is
safe to say, that nowhere on the continent could one find a more charming spot or

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more delightful weather conditions for a summer holiday than at Victoria during seasons usually so hot and enervating elsewhere.

But people of leisure who delight in the beauties of nature, and who can take a vacation at any season of the year, will revel in the enjoyment of the abundance of wild flowers that carpet the fields, and the glory of the golden blossoms of the English broom that crowns Beacon Hill, and which lines the drives and walks in all directions.

It is unlike any other resort on the continent. Blessed with a temperate summer climate—the average temperature being 70°—and natural scenic beauties unsurpassed in any part of the world, which in themselves make the city exceedingly attractive to those in search of health or pleasure. There are hundreds of miles of the finest roads in America for the enjoyment of Driving, Motoring and Cycling around Victoria.

This quaint and picturesque city has always been recognized as the one above all others on the North Pacific Coast in which life is worth living. Its situation is ideal, surrounded as it is on three sides by the island-studded Straits of Juan de Fuca, leading out into the great Pacific Ocean, the shore line broken by huge rocky bluffs sheltering innumerable small bays with sandy beaches, and from which superb views of the snow-capped Olympian range of mountains and of the lordly Mount Baker are always obtainable.

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GREAT PROFITS FROM SMALL ACREAGE.

Certain fruits, commercially considered, have proved money winners throughout the country surrounding Victoria—Vancouver Island being famed for strawberries as well as other horticultural products.

Herewith are submitted a few figures taken for the season 1906, at Victoria:

Grower A delivered from $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres strawberries, 12,556 pounds, for which he obtained \$1,365.10, less 10 per cent for marketing, or over \$800 per acre—this crop was harvested from one, two and three years' old vines.

Grower B delivered from less than four acres of one, two and three years' old vines, 28,126 pounds, for which he obtained \$2,887, less 10 per cent per acre for selling, or over \$700 per acre.

Grower C delivered from half an acre, 2,826 pounds, for which he received \$301, less 10 per cent for selling, or at the rate of over \$600 per acre

These were average crops—not grown by specialists but by intelligent, everyday industrious farmers who have no expert knowledge. If we average the production we find that \$700 per acre is the ordinary production. So that if we allow an extravagant amount, say \$200 per acre, for cost of cultivation, etc., we still have as a most conservative estimate the sum of \$500 as the net returns of one acre; in other words, a return of \$5,000 on ten acres.

FOR SALE- 660 ACRES, 9 miles from Victoria on Railway, 100 acres cleared, new 8-roomed house, beautiful fruit land, suitable for sub-dividing. Also 200 ACRES AT ESQUIMALT suitable for sub-dividing, southern slope, LARGE WATER FRONTAGE. For these and other properties consult

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So much for the strawberry culture. This is not all that can be grown on a ten-acre tract.

If, in addition to the strawberries, we plant Italian prunes on one-half of this ten-acre tract, or five acres, and Wealthy or some other tested apples on the other half, or five acres. The prunes planted twenty feet apart will give us, discarding fractions, 100 trees per acre, or 500 trees for five acres. The cultivation given the strawberries will keep the trees in the pink of condition.

At the end of the first year of growth it is estimated the trees have increased in value not less than 25 cents each—which sum will repay cost and planting of the trees. At the end of the second year the increase in value to each tree is not less than 50 cents or on 500 trees \$250. The third year 75 cents per tree or on 500 trees \$375. The fourth year \$1 per tree, or on 500 trees \$500, and a possible small crop thrown in. As five years olds, nine times out of ten, a crop varying in value from \$2 to \$4 per tree, often very much more.

Will such a crop and growth justify careful, continuous culture? This is a question each one must answer for himself.

For the five acres planted we have 75 trees, or a total on five acres of 375. The annual growth on these is equal in value to the prune, so that we have for the first year 375 trees at 25 cents or \$93.75; for the second year \$187.50; for the third year

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\$281.25; for the fourth year \$375; at five years old fruit will be produced in most varieties of apples valued at least at \$100 per acre.

To recapitulate on the ten acres we find of prunes five acres, 500 trees:

First year growth.....	\$ 125.00
Second year growth.....	250.00
Third year growth.....	375.00
Fourth year growth.....	400.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,150.00

After this a crop. Or an average increase in value of \$285.50 on each acre planted in prunes.

Apples, five acres, 375 trees:

First year growth.....	\$ 93.75
Second year growth.....	187.50
Third year growth.....	281.25
Fourth year growth.....	375.00
	<hr/>
	\$937.50

Victoria the Beautiful

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All eyes are now on Victoria.

Act quickly and get in on the ground floor.

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After this a crop which will more than equal the average annual value of growth.

The above shows an average increase in value of \$234.25 per acre.
Totalling we find:

Gross increase on prunes.....	\$1,437.50
Gross increase on apples.....	1,171.75
	<hr/>
	\$2,609.25

This represents the increase in actual value on ten acres in five years, or over \$260 per acre.

After this the whole ten acres as outlined would be producing cash income.

Plums, cherries, pears and all kinds of crabapples are equally at home on this favored Vancouver Island.

The roads radiating from this city are all well built—climate none better—no scorching summer heat, no mosquitoes, no blizzards—violets and primroses in the open border in the month of February, side by side with the lovely holly. We challenge the earth to equal these conditions.

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In conclusion I may add for the benefit of our would-be settlers that a special training is not necessary for the prosecution of this most interesting work."

Ordinary intelligence and its application will win

Books from responsible authors are cheap, and are of the best.

All we need to do is to use our eyes and ears, cultivate good fellowship and the land. Nature will do the rest.

Victoria has a population of 30,000, and is in every way a modern city. It owns its own lighting plant and waterworks. There is an excellent sewerage system (separate) which gravitates to the beach, the outlet being well out at sea. It is one of the healthiest cities in the world. The City Schools are unsurpassed in efficiency

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